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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6834

BILL NUMBER: HB 1252

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 31, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Indiana Veterans' Home.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Truitt

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
X FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill makes changes to the eligibility criteria for admittance to the Indiana Veterans' Home. It also transfers administration of the Indiana Veterans' Home buildings and grounds from the Department of Natural Resources to the Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Effective Date: July 1, 2010.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Summary:* This bill may increase the number of individuals who are eligible for admission to the Indiana Veterans' Home by decreasing the residency requirement at time of application to one year and by expanding eligibility to honorably discharged service members who are former state residents. Increases in the eligible population are indeterminable.

If the Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) admits more individuals to the Indiana Veterans' Home under the expanded eligibility criteria, any increase in expenditures will be funded from Medicaid and the federal Veterans' Administration.

Additionally, the bill transfers responsibility of the Indiana Veterans' Home from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to the IDVA. Transferring the administration of the Indiana Veterans' Home will result in no fiscal impact.

Additional Information: *Transfer of the Indiana Veterans' Home:* Currently, there is a memorandum of understanding between DNR and IDVA concerning the administration of the Indiana Veterans' Home.

Eligibility for the Indiana Veterans' Home: Currently, there is no eligibility given to honorably discharged service members who were Indiana residents at the time of their enlistment. Additionally, the current residency requirement is three years. Under the bill, after the effective date of July 1, 2010, the following disabled or destitute individuals will be eligible for admission to the Indiana Veterans' Home:

- (1) An honorably discharged member of the armed forces,
- (2) the spouse of an honorably discharged member of the armed forces, or
- (3) the surviving spouse of an honorably discharged member of the armed forces,

if either (a) the qualifying applicant has been a resident of Indiana for at least one year prior to application for admission to the home or (b) the honorably discharged member of the armed forces was a resident of Indiana at their time of enlistment.

The Indiana Veterans' Home was appropriated \$37 M per year over the biennium, which consists of federal IV-H Medicaid reimbursement funds, and the Comfort and Welfare Fund.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: IDVA; DNR.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Tom Applegate, IDVA.

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.